

Message Text

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44

ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01
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COM/BIEPR/OTP/LJMURPHY
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STATE/EB/OCA/CM/WHALL(PHONE)
STATE/AF/W/RKOTT(SUBS.)
STR/BSTEINBOCK(PHONE)
TREASURY/EFROST(PHONE)

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R 101743Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL MTN GENEVA
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD, NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN TRADE RESTRICTIONS

REF: A. GENEVA 4818 B. STATE 145827

1. FOLLOWING NIGERIAN ANNOUNCEMENT OF TEMPORARY SIX-MONTH
IMPORT BAN ON 43 PRODUCT CATEGORIES ON APRIL 1, MISSION
REPORTED NIGERIAN FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT (FMG) HAD
NOT NOTIFIED GATT SECRETARIAT OF NEW RESTRICTIONS ON TRADE.
EVALUATION OF 1974 NIGERIAN IMPORT DATA SUGGESTED THAT
IMPACT OF BAN ON U.S. EXPORTS WAS RELATIVELY MINOR COM-
PARED TO OTHER SUPPLIERS. SUBSEQUENT REQUEST (REF B) THAT
MISSION DETERMINE U.K. AND JAPANESE INTENTIONS REVEALED NO
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INTEREST IN MAKING OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR NIGERIAN NOTIFICA-

TION, AS REPORTED REF A. RECENT REVISION OF BAN RAISES QUESTION OF GATT NOTIFICATION ONCE AGAIN.

2. REVISION OF BAN ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 1 REMOVED SEVERAL PRODUCTS FROM LIST AND AUTHORIZED LIMITED IMPORTATION BY MANUFACTURERS OF CERTAIN OTHER ITEMS REMAINING ON LIST. ANALYSIS OF TRADE IMPACT REVEALS U.S. AGAIN NOT AS SERIOUSLY AFFECTED AS OTHERS. LESS THAN ONE PERCENT (\$1.5 MILLION) OF TOTAL U.S. TRADE DURING FIRST HALF OF 1975 IS ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED BY REVISED BAN. ADDITIONAL

\$2.7 MILLION SUBJECT TO SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION. DURING SAME PERIOD ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED ITEMS IMPORTED FROM U.K. AND WEST GERMANY WERE WORTH \$9.7 AND \$2.8 MILLION RESPECTIVELY, WITH ADDITIONAL IMPORTS WORTH \$12.7 AND \$9.6 MILLION FROM U.K. AND JAPAN SUBJECT TO SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION.

3. NIGERIAN ACTIONS REMAIN INCONSISTENT WITH GATT. USG BELIEVES FMG SHOULD RECOGNIZE ITS GATT OBLIGATIONS AND AT MINIMUM NOTIFY GATT. HOWEVER, LIMITED U.S. TRADE INVOLVED MAKES QUESTION PRIMARILY ONE OF PRINCIPLE FOR USG. MISSION REQUESTED TO RAISE MATTER, AGAIN IN LOW KEY MANNER, WITH U.K., WEST GERMAN, AND JAPANESE DELEGATIONS TO DETERMINE IF, IN VIEW OF BAN'S IMPACT ON THEIR TRADE WITH NIGERIA, THEY INTEND TO PRESS FOR NIGERIAN NOTIFICATION. MISSION SHOULD INDICATE U.S.G. WILLINGNESS TO JOIN IN SUCH A REQUEST, BUT THAT IN VIEW OF LIMITED IMPACT ON U.S. TRADE, WE WOULD AGAIN PREFER NOT TO TAKE THE LEAD. PLEASE REPORT SUBSTANCE OF DISCUSSIONS.
ROBINSON

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